



**Informal Interpretation Report
Number 8857**



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Section R501.7.2

Question:

Since this is in the existing section of the Energy Conservation volume does this mean that when an electric resistance heating system in a residential application is replaced it shall not be replaced with a comparable electric resistance heating system? Does the new system have to be something other than electric resistance heating?

Answer

That code section does not apply unless the work meets the definition of Renovated Building.
Florida Building Code Existing Building: 701.2 Conformance "An existing building or portion thereof shall not be altered such that the building becomes LESS safe or ENERGY EFFICIENT than its existing condition."
(emphasis added)
In the stated case, the existing building is not becoming less energy efficient.

Commentary:

In the case of a "renovated building" where that definition applies, if the entire system is being replaced, electric resistance heat cannot be the PRIMARY HEATING SYSTEM. it must be a heat pump system

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.